

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In combination with an automotive control linkage, an arrangement for connecting one end of an elongated control rod to a headed pin included in said automotive control linkage, said arrangement establishing a driving connection between said pin and said control rod, said arrangement including:

a housing defining a pin receiving cavity with retention features around said cavity adapted to engage a portion of said headed pin so as to be captured and retained therein;

a soft elastomeric isolator fit to said one end of said rod to ~~substantially~~ completely enclose said one end of said rod;

said housing comprised of two pieces assembled and affixed together, each piece having an isolator engaging portion generally opposing an isolator engaging portion of the other piece, said portions together compressing said isolator therebetween to create an interference fit between said housing pieces and said isolator ~~when~~ as said two pieces are moved together to be assembled and fixed together in compressing gripping engagement with said isolator; said control rod surrounded by said compressed isolator so as to prevent any contact between said control rod and said housing when said control linkage is operated.

2. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein said housing pieces are fixed together by snap fit prongs on one housing piece received in respective receptacles on the other housing piece.

3. (Currently Amended) The combination ~~arrangement~~ according to claim 2 wherein said housing pieces are connected together with an integral hinge allowing said housing pieces to be swung together into abutment with each other to assemble the housing, and to be fit over and in engagement with said isolator.

4. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 3 wherein said housing pieces each have a recess defined therein, said recesses together forming an isolator receiving cavity when said housing pieces are assembled abutting each other enclosing and engaging said isolator.

5. (Previously Presented) An arrangement connecting one end of a rod to a headed pin to enable establishing a driving connection between said pin and said rod, including:

a housing defining a pin receiving cavity with retention features around said cavity adapted to engage a portion of said headed pin so as to be retained therein;

a soft elastomeric isolator, fit to said one end of said rod to substantially enclose said one end;

said housing comprised of two pieces assembled and affixed together, each piece having an isolator engaging portion generally opposing an isolator engaging portion of the other piece to engage and enclose said isolator when said two pieces are fixed together in engagement with said isolator;

said housing pieces fixed together by snap fit prongs on the housing piece received in a respective receptacle on the other housing piece;

said housing pieces connected together with an integral hinge allowing said

housing pieces to be swung together into abutment with each other to assemble the housing, and to be fit over and in engagement with said isolator;

said housing pieces each having a recess defined therein, said recesses together forming an isolator receiving cavity when said housing pieces are assembled abutting each other enclosing and engaging said isolator; and

said one end of said rod having a groove formed therein, and said isolator having a portion fit into said groove, said isolator also having an aligned outer groove formed therein, and said housing pieces having portions fit into said isolator groove when assembled together over said isolator.

6. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 5 wherein said isolator has portions subjected to compression of a thickness ~~on the order of~~ about one millimeter.

7. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein said isolator is molded over said one rod end.

8. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein said housing pieces are made of a hard plastic.

9. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 4 wherein said housing isolator receiving cavity has said interference fit with said isolator when said housing pieces are assembled.

10. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein said retention features comprise a prong on each housing piece projecting into said pin receiving cavity and being radially deflectable to be able to receive said headed portion on said pin and allow passage of said headed portion on said pin past said prongs, and engaging said headed portion of said pin after passage thereof past said prongs.

11. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 10 wherein said prongs are each formed with an axially extending wall radially spaced from a core portion of each of said housing pieces, and also having a lip projecting inwardly from said wall having a sloping under surface engaged by said headed portion of said pin to cause said radial deflection of said associated prong, and a blunt surface on each of said prongs engaging said headed portion after said headed portion has been inserted past said prongs to retain said pin in said cavity.

12. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein a web is formed on each housing piece extending over said pin receiving cavity on one side to prevent insertion of said pin from said one side.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~arrangement~~ combination according to claim 1 wherein said isolator has portions subjected to compression of a thickness of about one millimeter.